



# Big Sky Libraries

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Montana State Library [MSL]

## Inside:

A Word from Our State Librarian  
Karen's Schedule  
What Can NRIS Do For You?  
E-Rate Program  
Around the State  
Book Reviews  
Big Bash In Rotunda: Talking Book  
Celebrates 30th Year  
Interlibrary Loan [ILL]  
Rules Adopted  
Interlibrary Loan [ILL] Workshops  
MLA's Offline '99 Retreat:  
Registration, Details, Schedule  
Notes from MSL  
Spotlight: Barbara Pepper Rotness,  
Acquisitions Technician

## New Acquisitions at MSL

**Information Inequality, The  
Deepening Social Crisis in  
America**, by Herbert I. Schiller

**Multimedia and the Web  
from A to Z, 2nd Edition**, by  
Patrick M. Dillon and David C.  
Leonard

**Advertising and Marketing  
on the Internet, Rules of the  
Road**, Published by the Fed-  
eral Trade Commission Bureau  
of Consumer Protection, Au-  
gust 1998

**Tapping the Government  
Grapevine, the User-Friendly  
Guide to U.S. Government  
Information Sources, Third  
Edition**, by Judith Schiek  
Robinson

## Governor Supports Funds for Periodical Databases

Governor Marc Racicot has approved an additional \$400,000 in the State Library's new biennium budget to partially pay for a state license to a periodical index and full text product. Local libraries will be asked to pay the difference between the state's contribution and the license price. The Governor supports the project as a way to provide equal access to information for all of Montana's citizens. The Montana Library Association and the Montana Library Commission have made this budget item a high priority for advocacy in the upcoming legislative session. The State Library is very proud to have the Governor's support.

The Commission would like to invite all library supporters to visit Helena on Friday, January 15 to celebrate Montana Library Day. For the first time, this event will start in the Rotunda with library exhibits and demonstrations of library services. The Montana Library Association will invite legislators and their staffs to join library advocates for refreshments throughout the day. The festivities will carry on into the night at the State Library's biennial reception. Featuring a light dinner, this reception will give library supporters another opportunity to speak with their legislators about important library issues. If you are planning to attend, please make your local arrangements early as hotels are full during the legislative session.

## Calendar

For more information on these and other Montana Library events, visit our  
web calendar at: <http://msl.state.mt.us/calendar.html>

**December 9** -- Montana State Library Commission Meeting Helena. Contact: Amanda Christen, Montana State Library - 406-444-3384 - E-mail: [achristen@msl.state.mt.us](mailto:achristen@msl.state.mt.us)

**December 14 at 6:30 p.m.** -- "The Way I See It," a selection of biographies for an adult book discussion group. Contact: Honore Bray, Director of Hearst Free Library, 406-563-6932.

**January 14** -- Montana Library Association Board Meeting, Lewis & Clark Public Library, Helena, MT. Contact: John Thomas, Carroll College - 406-447-4343 - [jthomas@carroll.edu](mailto:jthomas@carroll.edu)

**January 15** -- Montana Library Legislative Day - Helena, MT. Contact: Lois Fitzpatrick, MLA Legislative Affairs Committee, Carroll College - 406-447-4341 - [lfitzpat@carroll.edu](mailto:lfitzpat@carroll.edu)

**February 26-27** -- Montana Library Association Offline Interest Group Meeting in Bozeman. Contact: Bruce Newell, Lewis & Clark Public Library, 406-447-1690x11, E-mail: [bnewell@mtlib.org](mailto:bnewell@mtlib.org)

## A Word From Our State Librarian



I generally view the adage from China "May you live in interesting times" as a blessing and not as a curse. However, with the recent announcement of a possible merger between WLN and OCLC, I may have to reframe my view. Of course, this merger (if it indeed takes place) opens new opportunities for Montana's libraries, but the merger presents us with many unknowns. We anticipate some transition issues (What will it cost? How does it work?) but these are truly transitory concerns and they will pass. My biggest concern is the long range effect of these changes on small libraries' services.

Having worked as a librarian in the Pacific Northwest for the past 20 years, I felt that my professional career was intertwined with developments at WLN. I remember using WLN's Microfiche product for finding holdings for interlibrary loans. I remember installing my first LaserCat product on an ancient DOS based computer and marveling at the ease and speed of searching. I recall how the drives sounded as they searched the disc and how the product sometimes blew up--caught up in some endless loop search with its green light steady. I taught librarians how to use the product to download cataloging data and produce interlibrary loan forms with holdings automatically transferred to the form. LaserCat opened the world of resource sharing and professional cataloging to many librarians who could now spend their time on direct services to patrons rather than typing sets of catalog cards or laboriously filling out ILL forms. In my view, the merger of WLN with OCLC ends a chapter of library development.

But enough of nostalgia -- I know that many of you have questions about the future of this bibliographic utility that has become a staple in your library. We will do our best at MSL to work with WLN/OCLC to give you answers. However, as of this writing, WLN and OCLC are at the 20,000 ft. level - that is, focusing on the very big financial and legal questions. As time passes, the negotiators and transition teams will refocus on the smaller questions, such as a possible new look for a LaserCat like product. Again, MSL will be distributing information as it becomes available. During this process, our goal is to make sure that all libraries in Montana have access to quality cataloging and holding information at a reasonable price. We do live in interesting times.



### Karen's Schedule:

Dec. 2 - Networking Task Force Meeting  
 Dec. 23 - Montana Geographic Information Council  
 Jan. 15 - Montana Library Day  
 Jan. 15 - LSTA Advisory Council [tentative]

### What Can NRIS Do for You?

- What GIS map layers are available for Montana?
- Where can you download USGS Quadrangles in Digital Raster Format?
- Where can I access three GIS applications over the World Wide Web?
- What is a Spoonhead Sculpin?
- What does a Northern Leopard Frog look like and where is it found in Montana?
- How can I access the Montana Ground Water Atlas on the World Wide Web?
- How high was the Yellowstone River flowing as of four hours ago?

You can get quick answers to these questions, and many more from the Natural Resource Information System at the Montana State Library. Visit our website at: <http://nr.is.state.mt.us>.

### E-Rate Program

Libraries that submitted forms 470 and 471 by April 15, 1998, should expect to receive funding commitment decision letters within the next few weeks. Once you receive the letter, you should file form 486 within five days.

The State Library, Office of Public Instruction and the Public Service Commission sponsored an E-Rate workshop on October 13, 1998 in Helena. This workshop, broadcast via METNET to three sites around the state, covered the details of submitting the final forms for 1998/1999 funding, and how to apply for fiscal year 2000 funding. The workshop was videotaped.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Around the State

A \$25,000 donation from Pioneer Federal Savings and Loan enabled the **William K. Kohrs Memorial Library**, Deer Lodge, to acquire a Power Macintosh 6500 computer for public use. The Friends of the Kohrs Library donated funds for a printer.

Marian Geil, retired assistant librarian, wrote a book on the history of the **Hearst Free Library**. The book is available from the library and may soon be available elsewhere.

The **Lewistown Public Library** celebrated Teen Read Week by opening a new section for high school students.

An anonymous benefactor pledged to buy a bookmobile for the **Great Falls Public Library**.

**Fallon County Library's** new director is Judy Gunderson.

## Book Reviews

**New Steps to Service: Common-Sense Advice for the School Library Media Specialist**, by Ann M. Wasman. This book is geared toward individuals new to the library world who are responsible for setting up a school library media center. All aspects of running a media center are included.

**Key Business Sources of the U.S. Government**, by Steven Staniger, Susan Goshorn, Jennifer Boettcher. Presented in an annotated bibliography, this source recommends government documents for inclusion in business collections. Listed by subject, each citation includes the documents title, SUDOC number, URL and frequency of publication, along with a brief description of the information available within the item. Subjects include agriculture, demographics, intellectual property, economic conditions, and government grants and procurement.



Barbara Baarson being presented Special Appreciation Award by Christie Briggs, of MTBL.

## Big Bash in Rotunda: Talking Book Celebrates 30th Year

"That was really great," piped up volunteer Herb Blunn as the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Montana Talking Book Library [MTBL] came to a close. The celebration held on September 29, in the Rotunda of the Montana State Capitol, began with cakes, cookies, cheese plates, fruit plates, and all sorts of other tasty goodies. Mike Cooney, Secretary of State, presented awards and Stan Lynde, Montana writer and artist,

gave the keynote speech.

The 1998 Special Appreciation Award was awarded to Barbara Baarson and Chuck Wirth received the Telephone Pioneer Award. The Recording Team of the Year Award went to Lea Blunn, Narrator; Mary Zednick, Monitor; Jane Briney, Reviewer; and Giles Walker,



Myrle Tomkins receiving Years of Service Certificate and "special medal of bravery" from Susie Merrin, MSL Volunteer Coordinator.

Reviewer. Dorothy Laird, Montana State Library Commission Chair, presented the Life-Saver Awards to the summer youth-volunteers, Alexis Lund, Christina Rose, Alise Scheeler, Tyler Simmons, and Jessica Vashro. The Montana Telephone Pioneers received a Commendation for Service plaque from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) presented by Carolyn Sung, Network Division Chief, NLS, for over 35 years of volunteer service. Last, but not least, the Years of Service Awards were presented to William "Bill" Bell, Sheila Bieber, Mary Davis, Barb Harris, Bonnie Heidel, Myrle Thompkins, and Cylene Wood for five years of service. Those receiving awards for ten years of service included Priscilla Bucher, Mary Jane Cartwright, and JoAnn Mayala. Lea Blunn received a fifteen year award.



Volunteers Edith "ET" Tanna and Phyllis Herbert

## Interlibrary Loan [ILL] Rules Adopted

Effective July 1, 1999, new rules affecting the ILL reimbursement program will take effect. The proposed amendments would allow the State Library to make ILL reimbursement on an annual basis rather than a quarterly basis, as is current practice. In addition, a competence requirement was added to ensure that all libraries participating in the ILL process adhere to the same guidelines and practices.

Through a number of work sessions, MLA's ILL Interest Group drafted the Montana Interlibrary Sharing Protocols, which were reviewed and approved by the State Library Commission at their August 1998 meeting. To inform libraries of the new protocols and assist in providing a certificate of competence in ILL, the State Library conducted ILL training workshops around the state [see next article].

The State Library received four comments during the rule adoption process. Comments ranged from grammatical corrections, to including an electronic transmission, to financial concerns and impacts. Generally, libraries were supportive of the competency requirement, but some felt that making the transition between quarterly and annual payments would be a financial hardship for the first year.

In response to those concerns, the State Library developed the following plan for assisting libraries with the transition:

The State Library will implement a transition period of one year, beginning on July 1, 1999 and ending on June 30, 2000. By October 1, 1999, the State Library will extend an advance payment for interlibrary loan at the request of a library. All libraries requesting this advance, regardless of yearly reimbursement amount, must notify the State Library in writing by August 31, 1999. The advance will equal fifty (50) percent of the library's last year's payment.

In following years, libraries that receive a yearly disbursement of \$10,000 or more, will receive an advance payment by October 1. Libraries that wish to receive an advance but do not meet the disbursement amount requirement will be evaluated on an individual basis. All libraries requesting this advance must notify the State Library in writing by August 31 of each year. The advance will equal fifty (50) percent of the library's last fiscal year payment.

## Interlibrary Loan [ILL] Workshops

In September, MSL staff members and MLA ILL Interest Group members presented six ILL workshops around the State. LSTA grant funds were used to pay for mileage and lunch for the 151 Montana Librarians that attended. The participants, representing all types of libraries, learned basic ILL procedures and how to use the revised ILL protocol. We are sure there was also exciting information exchanged during carpool rides and breaks—librarians never miss a chance to network!

Two workshop sessions were videotaped. These 4.5 hour videos are available from MSL through interlibrary loan. Viewing the workshop video can be used to receive certification and proof of competency. This proof will be required for a library to receive reimbursement from MSL for interlibrary loans made to other Montana libraries beginning in fiscal year 2000 [July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000]. At the same time the reimbursement program will switch from a quarterly reimbursement schedule to a yearly one [see previous article].

Many requests are being made for the tapes, so please be patient.

### ***E-Rate Program*** (Continued from page 2)

Tapes are available from Michael Hall, OPI [406-444-4422].

Applications for FY 2000 funding can be submitted online through the Schools and Libraries Corporation web site: <http://www.slcfund.org>. Both forms 470 and 471 should be submitted between December 1, 1998 and February 19, 1999.

The deadline for filing the state application for discounts on back haul charges is tentatively set for January 1, 1999. Although this program depends on the amount of discount you receive through the federal program, go ahead and submit this application. Contact Bonnie Lorang of the Public Service Commission, at (406)444-6191 and look at the PSC homepage: <http://psc.state.mt.us/>, or Magi Malone at 1-888-826-0837.

## Notes From MSL

### **MSL submits Gates Foundation Grant:**

Montana's grant application to the Gates Library Foundation (GLF) was submitted in early October. GLF will announce successful state applications by the end of this year. If approved, the implementation schedule would be as follows:

- January to June 1999 - GLF staff visits states to gather data and plan.
- June 1999 - GLF will announce the order in which they will start the grant program.
- August 1999 - Starting with those states that are the most ready, GLF will begin implementation at the local level.
- Throughout the project year, the Foundation will provide workshops and training to librarians to help them with the local applications and in carrying out the project.

Eligibility criteria for individual public library buildings include:

- 10% or higher poverty rate (as determined by the GLF)
- Recognized by MSL as a legally established public library
- Successfully complete a grant application
- Commitment to offering direct public access to the Internet.

The only public library buildings in Montana that do not meet the first eligibility criteria are Belt, Boulder, Big Timber, Conrad, Denton, Joliet, Manhattan, and Colstrip.

### **Networking Task Force meets in Bozeman:**

On October 30, members of the Networking Task Force met at the Renne Library on the MSU campus in Bozeman. At the top of their agenda was a visit from Paul McCarthy, CEO of WLN, to discuss the possible merger of WLN with OCLC. The Task Force identified questions and issues to speak about with Mr. McCarthy, who joined the group for almost two hours. Bruce Newell and Nancy Brennan summarized this discussion on Wired-Mt.

The task force also heard a report summary from Mary Bushing, Lee Kuhr, and Lynn Donovan, the evaluation committee of the Last Copy Fiction Pool

at the Parmly-Billings Library. Members complimented the committee on the quality of the evaluation and made the following recommendation to the Commission: "Subject to an examination of certain materials by the Historical Society, the Commission should not support the pool as a statewide project and transfer any state interest in the pool's materials and equipment to the Parmly-Billings Library. Additionally, the Task Force encourages the Commission and libraries throughout Montana to thank the Parmly-Billings Library for their years of service to Montana libraries and citizens."

The Commission will consider this recommendation at their December 9 meeting.

The Task Force spent most of the afternoon discussing the impacts of the merger of WLN and OCLC and the proposed resource sharing project. The members asked State Library staff to draw up several scenarios for carrying out the project and to bring them to the next Task Force meeting on December 2 in Helena.

**Commission News:** The Commission met at the Miles City Public Library on October 14. Many area trustees and librarians attended the meeting and voiced their opinions on the agenda items. The Commission heard comments regarding the proposed resource sharing project and the adoption of public library standards. They deferred a decision on these two issues until the December meeting in Helena.

The Commission repealed six superseded policies concerning the use of LSCA funds and goals and objectives. The Commission discussed updating policies concerning federations and the state depository program. They asked the State Librarian to post the proposed policies on Wired-Mt to ask for comments.

The Commission will meet again in Helena on December 9 in the State Library's Conference Room. Their major agenda items include adoption of standards, updates of federation and state depository program policies, and approval of a resource sharing project. MSL will post the full agenda on the web site at <http://msl/state.mt.us>.



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Karen Strege, State Librarian

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## *Spotlight: Barbara Pepper Rotness Acquisitions Technician*

Barbara Pepper Rotness, Acquisitions Technician for Library and Information Services Division, began working at the Montana State Library in December of 1989. As the Acquisitions Technician, Barbara orders and receives all new titles; does copy cataloging for new records; maintains the standing orders collection; and works several hours a week on the Reference desk.

Barbara was born in Arlington, Virginia and grew up in Reston, Va. She graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a minor in German.

Throughout college, she worked at various jobs, but predominantly alternated between academic libraries and health clinics. After graduation, she packed the paucity of her belongings into her car and travelled west for a few months. She ended up in Yellowstone National Park, where she met her husband, David. They worked in Yellowstone for a year (witnessing the awesome fires of 1988), before settling in Helena.

Barbara is currently taking "Human Anatomy & Physiology" at Carroll College, and may, in theory, combine her interest in library science with medical science by working in a medical library (in actuality, she has no idea where this will lead). She spends her free time reading, hiking with her dogs, drawing wildflowers, "aerobicizing" and cooking.



Barbara Pepper Rotness